



# Cave Survey Synopsis

April 18, 2013

## Team members:

Kelly Mathis (trip leader)	Jessica Reese
MaryBeth Wells	Dan Austin

This was a trip to the L survey, in an upper-level area of the cave called Rambling Loft. The team's objective was to explore leads that had been marked on the map in 1963, and survey any passages found beyond.

The team documented bat bones in a passage that was originally explored by Herb and Jan Conn, and also found numerous fossils embedded in the walls. These fossils are the remains of marine animals that once lived in an ancient sea. The Pahasapa Limestone, in which the cave formed, was deposited millions of years ago at the bottom of this sea.

A total of 317.70 feet were surveyed on this 7.5-hour trip.



Fossil coated with quartz crystals. NPS Photo



Kelly sketches the cave on a smartphone. Although paper and pencil are still used to collect most data in the cave, technology is advancing rapidly, and digital data collection will likely become the norm in years to come. NPS Photo.



Bat bones near RL9G. NPS Photo

***The current length of Jewel Cave is 166.51 miles.***